

they instantaneously received the Holy Ghost.

Paul received the Holy Spirit instantaneously thru the laying on of hands probably before baptism; if so he is the first exception to the regular order. Acts 9:17. Cornelius and his house received the Holy Spirit instantaneously before baptism and simultaneously with conversion. This is the only clear case out of the regular order. *Learn well that the reception of the Holy Ghost is what sanctifies and that he must be received instantaneously.*

III. The proper place of sanctification in the plan of salvation.

1. It appears to be God's perfect will to sanctify every Christian immediately after regeneration and baptism. (1) Christ received the spirit immediately after baptism, and he is our exemplar. (2) The apostles received the Holy Ghost after baptism. Not immediately after because they could not receive him before pentecost. But we here have the proper order. (3) Peter on pentecost said, (a) repent, (b) be baptized, (c) receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. They immediately follow each other.

(4) After pentecost. In Acts 8:15. (a) Believed. (b) Baptized. (c) Received the Holy Ghost. As soon as the apostles heard of their baptism they went up and at the first opportunity they laid hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.

In Acts 16:16, they were probably regenerated some time before they were properly baptized, because they lived up to the knowledge they had; but as soon as they were properly taught they were baptized rightly and immediately thereafter received the Holy Ghost.

(5) Exceptions to this order. Because of the prejudices of the Jewish Christians, God gave the Holy Spirit to the first Gentiles simultaneously with conversion and before baptism. But baptism immediately followed. If Peter would have baptized these before proof of their acceptance by God, he would have been censured by the Christians everywhere. See Acts 10:45. After this proof that God treated all nationalities alike they could not object; and this is doubtless the reason of this notable exception.

Paul is probably another exception; but if so baptism immediately followed. As it is the will of God that all should be saved, yet the mass do not accept this will; so, it is the will of God to sanctify every believer, yet many believers never accept it. It is God's will for all to accept Christ as soon as they know right from wrong but scarcely any comply with this part of his will; so it is the will of God to sanctify every believer immediately after conversion and baptism, yet but few were ever sanctified at the proper place in the plan of salvation. God is so willing to sanctify all that he will do it at any time when we comply with the conditions. There are enough exceptions to keep us from being dogmatic and condemn all that is not in this natural order. The Holy Spirit may cut across caste lines today as he did then, but

the plan is sufficiently clear that we may accept the certainty instead of the uncertainty, the rule instead of the exception. We should all learn this plan well and teach it properly.

IV. How to receive this sanctification.

1. Obedience. "The Holy Ghost" God hath given to them that obey him. Acts 5:32. "Be not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness and unrighteous, and what communion hath light with darkness, and what concord hath Christ with Belial, or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel, and what agreement hath the temple of God with idols, for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean (thing); and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty. Having, therefore, these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of the Lord." II Cor. 6:14; 7:1. "Abstain from all appearance of evil." I Thes. 5:22. "Present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, and be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind." Rom. 12:1, 2. 2. Laying on of hands. "Let us go on unto perfection," leaving "the doctrine of laying on of hands." Heb. 6:1, 2. "Then laid they their hands on them and they received the Holy Ghost." Acts 8:17. "When Paul laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them." Acts 19:6. "Putting his hands on him said, brother Saul . . . be filled with the Holy Ghost." Acts 9:17. How clear the instantaneous reception in these cases.

3. Ask. In Luke 11:8-13 we learn that God will give the Holy Ghost to every one who asks, more readily than a father will give bread to a hungry child. But you must be willing to put yourself to any inconvenience for the gift, and ask with importunity. Study this whole reference.

4. Faith. "We receive the promise of the Spirit thru faith." Gal. 3:13. Comply with these simple conditions and every one can receive the Holy Spirit. We receive nothing short of the very life of God. He that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one (of God—out of God, the original). Heb. 2:11. "I am the vine and ye are the branches." John 15:5. The same life that is in the vine is in the branch, what an intimate union with Jesus. Glory to God! When we receive the Holy Ghost we not only receive the perfect life but the *perfected* life of Jesus. This we receive by a definite act of faith. Not a matter of growth, of goodness, of ability, or of inheritance. By simply yielding and claiming by faith the weakest, the strongest, the least, the greatest can accept this New Testament sanctification at any moment. (1) Separate yourself from

all sin. (2) Consecrate yourself to God. (3) By faith receive Him.

V. Progressive sanctification. Christ's perfected life, received as a gift, works out thru your whole being a progressive sanctification which enlarges himself with increasing power as long as you live. This perfected sanctification which we receive as a gift ("in which will we have been sanctified." Heb. 10:10, R. V.) is constantly "perfecting holiness in the fear of the Lord." II Cor. 7:1. "He hath perfected forever them that are being sanctified." Heb. 10:14 (literal rendering). "Here progressive sanctification has its rest and its assurance in the once and forever of Christ's work."—Murray. We definitely receive sanctification by faith, then we constantly day by day receive more of the Spirit: here is room for all the progressive sanctification of the gospel.

## The Mission Field

Washington, D. C.

It is our pleasant privilege to let the many readers of the EVANGELIST know of the glorious work being done in our little mission at Washington, D. C. Last Sunday three more were baptized, and taken in the church the following evening, making eleven being added to the church since New Year. I, the writer being one of the number so lately taken in the church, certainly praise the Lord that his truth is scattered far and wide, free to all for the asking.

What a comforting thought it is to know that we can ask God to help us in all our plans and work, and how many of us ask God how we can help him in his work? It is a usual thing in every church when Sunday comes there are so many of the members absent from the house of God. We are happy to say that in our little band of Christian workers, we have but few such members. Every one is found ready and willing to do whatsoever he findeth them to do. We are either for God or against him. So if we neglect the services for some worldly amusements we are surely against God.

In conclusion, let me say as this is the beginning of another year let us all resolve to do more and better for our church in the coming year than we have in the past, knowing we shall be rewarded according to our works.

MRS. JOHN LYON.

Chicago Mission

We are pleased to notice in recent numbers of the EVANGELIST, that the Lord is blessing the work of our ministers and churches with accessions, and we hope deep spiritual blessings.

Work here is still moving on. The weather since the first of the present month has been foggy and wet, until the present week, and now is quite cold. Our meetings are blessed as we believe with the presence of the Lord. Two more are awaiting baptism, and others are interested. Pray for us, that the Lord may direct us wisely, and bless His